

have been awarded for 110 miles of construction at a cost of about \$18 million. These Interstate System projects are being financed in part from the new funds authorized by the 1956 Act.

The first contract for construction on the Interstate System using funds authorized by the 1956 Act was awarded by the Missouri State highway department on August 2, only slightly more than one month after enactment of the legislation. The project provided for 2.6 miles of divided highway on U.S. 66 between Lebanon and Hazelgreen, Missouri. Other projects for improvement of the Interstate System in Missouri also have been awarded to contract, so that the State is now placing under construction six projects costing \$3.8 million in Federal and State funds under the provisions of the 1956 Act.

These developments and others to follow should afford substantial assistance in our efforts to improve our deficient highway systems. I am hopeful that the States will move swiftly in advancing projects with the assurance that they will be given prompt attention by the Federal Government.

Respectfully yours,

SINCLAIR WEEKS

Secretary of Commerce

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